

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 14-25 currently remain pending in this application. Claims 12-13 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16 and 18 have been amended to removed any multiple dependencies. Accordingly, the objection of claims 16 and 18 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) should be withdrawn.

Claim 11 has been amended to remove the phrase "snowball-like way" therefrom. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 11 and 13-18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 3-10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson (US-5815557) in view of Gokcebay et al. (US-6552650). In this regard, applicant respectfully submits that Larson is directed to a secure entry system which utilizes radio transmission to communicate with locks, keys and related components throughout a system. Larson neither describes nor suggests that which is recited in claim 1 or claims 3-10, i.e., an access control system comprising: (1) memory of a key being equipped to receive and store information concerning any access rights of the key and information designated for other keys and locks; (2) the memory of a lock being equipped to receive and store information concerning any access rights for the lock and information designated for other keys and locks; (3) means for exchanging the information between locks and keys, and (4) a confirmation message producible by an *n*-th lock or key, the confirmation message acknowledging reception of an original message which confirmation message serves to control erasing of copies of the original message in the memories of the locks and keys.

In particular, Larson does not produce a confirmation message by the *n*-th lock or key, wherein the confirmation message acknowledges reception of an original message which confirmation message serves to control erasing of copies of the original message in the memories of the locks and keys.

Moreover, Larson does not describe or suggest that which is recited in claim 5, i.e., wherein the **information designated for other keys and locks** includes one or more messages for the other keys and locks and is exchanged off-line between a key and a lock.

The Gokcebay et al. patent is directed to a mechanical lock and key including an access control feature for preventing opening of the lock unless prescribed conditions are met. The Gokcebay et al. patent does not overcome the substantially deficiencies of the Larson patent as discussed above, hence it neither alone or in combination with Larson, makes obvious that which is recited in claims 1 and 3-10. That is, the combination of Larson and Gokcebay et al. neither describes nor suggests that a confirmation message acknowledges reception of an original message which confirmation message serves to control erasing of copies of the original message in the memories of the locks and keys. Moreover, the combination of Larson and Gokcebay et al. do not describe or suggest that the **information designated for other keys and locks** includes one or more messages for the other keys and locks and is exchanged off-line between a key and a lock.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson in view of Gokcebay et al. and further in view of Reardon (US-6212635). In this regard, applicant respectfully submits that Reardon does not overcome the substantial deficiencies Larson and/or Gokcebay et al. discussed above. Additionally, Reardon does not pertain to a lock and key access system, hence one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine Reardon with Larson and Gokcebay et al., absent hindsight reconstruction based upon the teaches of the present invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 11, 14-25 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gokcebay et al. in view of Reinert et al. (US-6347375). As mentioned above Gokcebay et al. is directed to mechanical lock and key, whereas Reinert et al. is directed to a method for remote virus diagnosis and repair. These two completely different arts are not

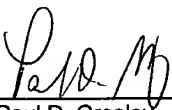
combinable, as they are completely non-analogous. Moreover, Gokcebay et al. does not describe nor suggest that which is recited in claims 11-25, inter alia, a method for propagating information in an electronic lock-and-key system, the method comprising: inserting an original message to be propagated to an n -th lock or key into a memory of a first key or a first lock, respectively, copying, on any use of the first key or the first lock, the original message into a memory of a second lock or key, respectively, but remains in the first key's or first lock's, respectively, memory, copying, on any subsequent use of the first and second key and the first and second lock, the original message into a memory of a next lock or key, respectively, but remains in the memories of the previously used locks and keys, respectively, propagating the original message until it reaches its destination, and producing a confirmation message in the n -th lock or key, thereby acknowledging reception of the original message which confirmation message serves to control erasing of the copies of the original message in the memories of the locks and keys. Not only is Reinert et al. non-analogous, but it neither, alone or in combination with Gokcebay et al., describes or suggests that which is recited in claims 11, 14-25

Consideration and allowance of application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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